

531, 029

Rec'd PCT 12 APR 2005
10/531029

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/036520 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G08B 13/14**(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2003/004424

(22) International Filing Date: 8 October 2003 (08.10.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
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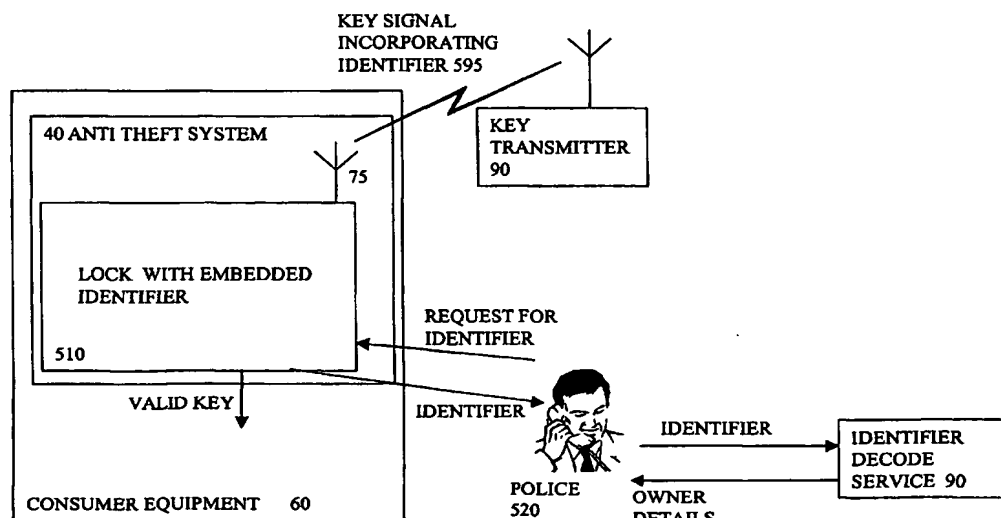
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

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(54) Title: WIRELESS SECURITY BEACON FOR CONSUMER EQUIPMENT



(57) Abstract: A security system for consumer equipment has a lock for preventing use of the equipment, and broadcasts a beacon signal indicating stolen status, if the lock does not receive a valid key signal over a wireless link. The beacon signal can help police identify stolen goods, and makes mere possession of stolen goods more risky and so deters theft. The lock serves to make the equipment useless or very expensive to make useful, once stolen. Little or no change of behaviour by users is needed. The beacon can be passive, in snooze state to save power, with periodic listening for an interrogating (police) radio, which causes it to wake up and transmit. The system can securely store, and optionally broadcast, a secure identifier which is traceable to an owner of the equipment, to aid recovery and conviction. Tamper resisting measures can be included.

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